



[www.mitchelllake.org](http://www.mitchelllake.org)

MLA Newsletter – April 2022

## Message from the President

### Mitchell Lake Association Board

Dave Jackett, President  
Travis Yohn, VP  
Michelle Rothwell, Treasurer  
Cheri Nehl, Secretary  
Zach Fetzer  
Erik Hansen  
Brian Haugen  
John Tyler  
Maria Verven

Email the board at  
[mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com)

### MLA 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Cleanup Sat., April 23



### MLA 2022 Annual Meeting Thurs., Oct. 6

Learn about the lake and meet your neighbors.

Dear Friends of Mitchell Lake,

On behalf of my family, neighbors and our board, thank you for supporting our efforts to protect and improve the water quality of our lake. My wife Molly and I along with our five kids have lived on Mitchell Lake for over eight years and we couldn't imagine living anywhere else.

#### 2021 Highlights

We had another great year in 2021. MLA supported efforts and events included:

- Vegetation management: Coordinated with watershed district and City of EP to treat invasive weeds via herbicide treatment and weed harvesting.
- Invasive species: Continued monitoring thanks to the vigilance of our members.
- Fish stocking: Added 150 crappies and 20 bass, thanks to voluntary contributions.
- MLA website: Revamped our website. Check it out at [mitchelllake.org](http://mitchelllake.org)

#### Our Board

Please join me in thanking our retiring board members Paul Yahnke, Mike Kaselnak and Joel Bredemeier. This year, we welcomed three new board members: Michelle Rothwell, Erik Hansen and Brian Haugen. We've already had three meetings this year and the entire board is busy serving our membership.

#### 2022 Priorities

At our annual meeting, we discussed focus areas for 2022; that dialogue, along with our annual survey, helped our board develop priorities for next year.

This spring, we will hold our 16<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Cleanup. We will work with the City of Eden Prairie and Watershed District on weed and invasive species management plans. And we'll support programs to restore our shoreline, stock our lake with fish, manage geese, hold education programs and bring our community together for fun events.

#### Our Members

We can't do it alone, however. If you are passionate about improving our lake and building a strong community, I encourage you to get involved. A great start is joining the Mitchell Lake Association. Keep reading to learn more about the work we are doing and how you can help.

We want you to be a part of it. I'm looking forward to a great 2022!

Dave Jackett, President  
Mitchell Lake Association



# MLA Membership Form – 2022

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Scan QR code to pay online at [www.mitchelllake.org](http://www.mitchelllake.org)



**New in 2022:** Annual autopay option now available

### Options

### I am including:

One Year Membership - \$35 for calendar year	\$
Add'l Contribution for Fish Stocking	\$
Add'l Contribution for Weed Management	\$
Add'l Contribution for General Lake Cleanup	\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>

**Please send your tax-deductible donation to:**

**Mitchell Lake Association**  
 C/O Michelle Rothwell  
 8002 Island Road  
 Eden Prairie, MN 55347



## Summer Picnic

The Mitchell Lake Association hosted a summer picnic featuring live music and a food truck last July. It was a beautiful summer evening on the lake, and the event was well attended.

The Association plans to host another picnic this summer. Look for upcoming event dates at [www.mitchelllake.org](http://www.mitchelllake.org).



### Mitchell Lake Association: Dedicated to improving the quality of our lake

#### The purpose of the Association is to:

- Maintain, protect, and improve the water quality, aesthetic values, wildlife habitat and recreational capacity of Mitchell Lake,
- Educate shoreline owners and the public about the condition and protection of Mitchell Lake, and
- Provide a framework for representation for work with federal, state, and local agencies for improving the quality of Mitchell Lake.



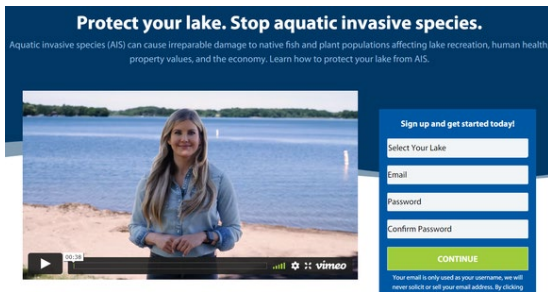
## Protect our Lake – Stop Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) can cause irreparable damage to native fish and plant populations affecting lake recreation, human health, property values, and the economy. Here are some ways to protect our lake:

- **Become an Adopt-a-Dock Volunteer** – Volunteers attach monitoring plates to the end of their docks, check them once a month and record observations to aid in early detection of zebra mussels. In 2021, Mitchell Lake had three participants with no zebra mussels detected. To participate in 2022, contact [EMahon@rpbcwd.org](mailto:EMahon@rpbcwd.org).
- **Prevent the Spread** – Clean all aquatic plants, animals and mud from watercraft, trailers, docks, lifts, anchors, and other recreational equipment before leaving the lake. Mitchell Lake now has a cleaning station installed at our public boat launch.
- **NEW: Join your Mitchell Lake neighbors, and take the 'Lake Pledge' to prevent aquatic invasive species**



We just launched the Lake Pledge program for Mitchell Lake along with several other Hennepin County Lakes. Lake Pledge is a fun, free program with entertaining videos showing how we can protect our lake from Aquatic invasive species (AIS).



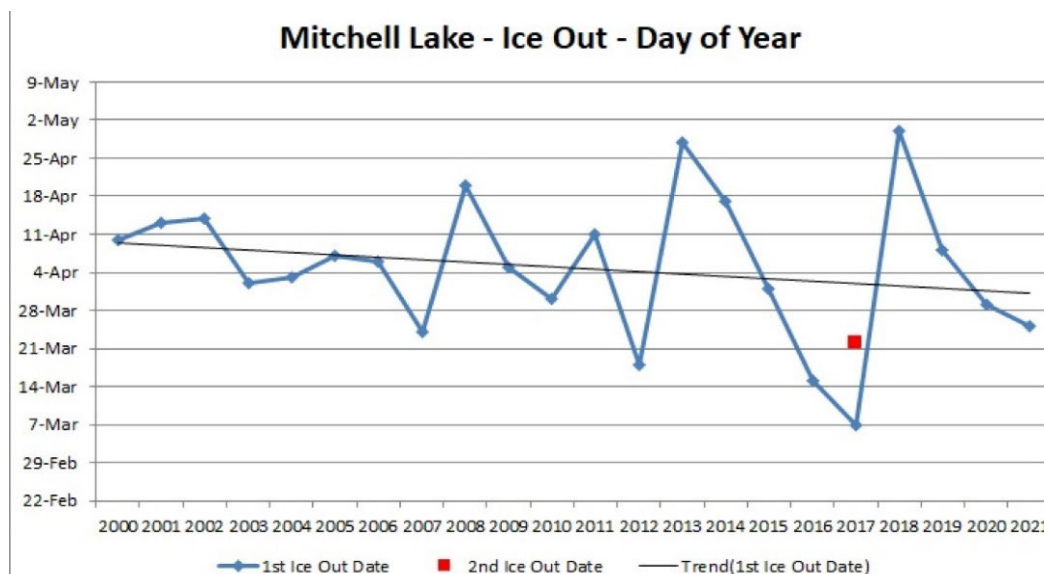
AIS can cause irreparable damage to native fish and plant populations and affect our health, recreation, property values, and the economy.

Join Lake Pledge today

- On a computer: [lakepledge.com](http://lakepledge.com).
- On a mobile device: download the Lake Pledge app on Apple's App Store or Google Play

## Mitchell Lake Ice Out

The 2022 ice out has still not taken place as of March 31st!



**Ice out definition:** Ability to navigate from the inlet at Highway 5 to the Miller Park boat launch.

## 2021 MLA Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to Jon Hanke, the first-place winner of our 2021 photo contest! Travis Yohn took second-place with his big fish photo. Check our website to see all 2021 photo submissions.



1<sup>st</sup> Place – Jon Hanke



2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Travis Yohn

### MLA 2022 Photo Contest

#### To Enter:

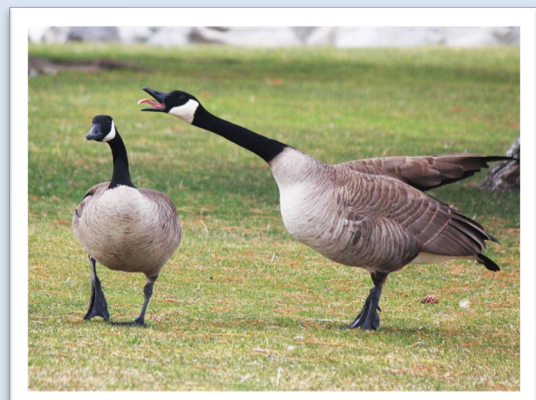
- 1) Capture photos portraying Mitchell Lake scenery, wildlife or lake life activities
- 2) Email photos to [mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com) by **Sept. 15, 2022** with Subject Line: "Photo Contest Submission"
- 3) Include your name with your submission and a title or description if relevant
- 4) Entries will be judged by the MLA Board & winners will be announced at the 2022 Annual Meeting.
- 5) Prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st Prize: \$50 Gift Card, 2nd Prize: \$25 Gift Card

## Goose Management

Are geese a nuisance in your part of the lake? To have geese removed from your property, file a goose complaint with the City of Eden Prairie. Go to [EdenPrairie.org](http://EdenPrairie.org) and search for "goose management" or scan the QR code for the form.



There is a limited window of time when geese can be dealt with, so we recommend submitting requests the last week of April through the first week of May.



## Weed Management: Our Top Priority



Weeds continue to be the number one MLA concern. Over-abundant vegetation impacts navigation, swimming and aesthetics. Mitchell Lake is home to over 15 species of aquatic plants, most of which are native species.

- Native species are an essential part of our lake’s ecosystem. They provide habitat for fish and wildlife and help improve water clarity.
- Invasive species are not native and can cause problems. They can spread rapidly, can cause environmental harm, impact wildlife and interfere with boating and swimming.

Mitchell Lake Board members interact regularly with Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek watershed and City of EP personnel to ensure that appropriate Mitchell Lake aquatic vegetations plans, issues and actions are being addressed. The two primary methods to control the invasive weeds in our lake: herbicide and weed harvesting;

- **Herbicide:** The Watershed District plans to treat about 15 percent of the lake with herbicide this spring.
- **Harvesting:** Mitchell Lake weed harvesting is planned for July/August. We offer a \$100 rebate to MLA members for private shoreline harvesting. Notifications will be sent to those on our email list.

1. Weed management
2. Shoreline restoration / cleanup
3. Government advocacy
4. Lake and watershed education
5. Fish stocking
6. Invasive species management
7. Growing our membership
8. Geese management
9. Community events

### MLA 2022 Priorities

### Welcome New Neighbors

This is a community that actively invests in protecting and improving the quality of Mitchell Lake. There are a variety of ways to participate and meet your neighbors. Be sure to check for the latest events and become a member at [www.mitchelllake.org](http://www.mitchelllake.org).



### Stay Current!



**Check out our website** - [www.mitchelllake.org](http://www.mitchelllake.org) is a great source of information about our lake and upcoming events.



**Get our emails** - If you’re not receiving our emails, please include your current email address on your membership form or email us at [mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com)



**Find us on Facebook** – “Like” our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/mitchelllakeorg](http://www.facebook.com/mitchelllakeorg) where you can post photos of your favorite lake activities!

## Landscape for Water Quality



Mitchell Lake is in the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD)

Installing a rain garden or shoreline buffer can improve the quality of our lake by capturing pollutants, mitigating erosion and providing a better wildlife habitat.

**Financial assistance is available!** Financial help with shoreline projects is available through the City of Eden Prairie, the RPBCWD Watershed District and Mitchell Lake Association.

MLA offers a **\$250 supplemental rebate** to paid MLA members who complete a Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) or City of EP-approved shoreline restoration, rain garden or buckthorn removal project. Four MLA restoration projects were initiated in 2021; all told, 14 projects have been completed.

For more information on rebates and resources, also check out the RPBCWD Water Stewardship Grant Program at [www.rpbcwd.org](http://www.rpbcwd.org) and the City of Eden Prairie landscaping rebates at [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org).

## Adopt-a-Drain to Protect Our Lake



"Last year, our family signed up for the Adopt-a-Drain program. It was easy to do and the family has enjoyed logging cleanings and knowing that we're helping keep our lake clean."

Dave Jackett, MLA President

Sign up to adopt a storm drain at [Adopt-a-Drain.org](http://Adopt-a-Drain.org)

### Join Us and Adopt-a-Drain

Did you know that everything that's in the street ends up in our lake? When it rains, storm water carries debris and pollutants in the street down the storm drain system directly to our lake. Even "natural" debris such as leaves and grass clippings are a problem because they break down to become food for algae.

Many of the drains around Mitchell Lake are not adopted. Maybe the one by your house needs help! The simple act of sweeping up around a storm drain protects the water quality of our lake.

## Fish Stocking Makes Fishing Fun!



Year	Season	Species	Size	Number
2019	Spring	Black Crappies	Adults 6" to 11"	350
		Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	20 (10 breeding pairs)
	Fall	Walleye	Fingerlings 4"-6"	1050
2020	Spring	Black Crappies	Adults 6" to 11"	250
		Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	20
	Fall	Black Crappies	Adults 3" to 11"	200
		Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	10-15
2021	Spring	Black Crappies	Adults 3" to 11"	150
		Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	20

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the MLA fish stocking program! Your voluntary contributions make fishing fun!

### Want to Contribute?

- Send a check to Mitchell Lake Association, C/O Michelle Rothwell, 8002 Island Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55347, with "fish stocking" in the memo line
- Send a contribution with your annual membership dues, or
- Pay online at our website [mitchelllake.org](http://mitchelllake.org). Go to "Membership & Donations" page.

For more information on past MLA fish stocking as well as DNR fish stocking and fish surveys, go to [mitchelllake.org/fish-stocking/](http://mitchelllake.org/fish-stocking/).

Dear Members,

First, let me thank all of you who have contributed toward this voluntary effort to get Mitchell Lake re-stocked and vibrant again! This would not happen without you!

For 2022 it appears we will have two fish stockings, one on April 23rd and the second this autumn due to the anticipated availability of fish. The first will be adult largemouth bass and adult black crappie. The second will be fingerling walleye 4"– 8" in length. Should the walleye be available in the Spring, we will place the order then.

The date of the shoreline cleanup is April 23rd , so we thought we would coincide the fish release for then so as many as possible can watch. Otherwise please see the fish release summary for 2019, 2020 and 2021 in the table above. Some respectable numbers!

Thank you all again for your generosity in making this happen!

John Tyler  
Board Member



# 16th Annual Mitchell Lake Cleanup

**Date:**

Saturday, April 23, 2022  
(rain or shine!)

**Time:**

- Cleanup: 10 AM
- Lunch: Noon
- Fish Release: 12:30 PM

**Location:**

Miller Park Warming House (near the hockey rink)



Help clean our lake by removing trash from the shoreline!



We focus on the lakeshore by Miller Park as well as the north shore along Highway 5. We'll provide garbage bags; take the collected garbage to the Miller Park warming house. Bring gloves, rakes and waders if you have them!



PRIZES will be awarded for the most unusual trash found.



Lunch will be provided at noon in the warming house. Bring a side or dessert to share (optional).



After lunch, join us at the public access landing to view the spring fish release in action!



Thanks in advance for helping us keep our lakeshore clean!